THE
DISSEMINATOR
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To Chief Librarians:
This electronic information sheet is being distributed to all Regional Librarians and members
of the Automation Working Group. Please distribute this to staff and boards. Thanks.

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T H E D I S S E M I N A T O R
1.5
February 18, 1994

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FUNDING FORMULA REVIEW UPDATE

The Report of the Regional Libraries Funding Formula Review Committee is being released by the Minister to regional library boards and municipal councils this week. An information session at the Provincial Library for Chief Librarians and Board Chairs is scheduled for February 25 with a snow date of March 4. Following this, members of the Committee are offering presentations to each regional library board. The Minister has asked Boards to submit their comments and concerns in writing by March 21.

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

The Steering Committee met on February 4, and appointed a four-person
report writing group. Joan Brown Hicks, Frances Anderson, Kim Adams and Donna Bourne-Tyson will be producing the first draft, by March 7th. Please see the following schedule for an idea of what's left to be done!

Summary Of Outstanding Tasks

1. Steering Committee will appoint a group to prepare the draft report.

Report raw materials to the Planning Team. Start P.R. plan.
Completion date: February 11, 1994

2. Report writers to complete draft report.
Completion date: March 7, 1994

3. Obtain feedback on draft plan from entire Planning Team. Plan will be sent out to Planning Team by mail by March 14, 1994, for comments.
Completion date: March 31, 1994

4. Revised draft report re-submitted to Steering Committee and
sponsoring bodies.
Completion date: April 15, 1994

5. Final approval of report by Steering Committee.
Completion date: May 19, 1994

6. Publicize the Strategic Plan.
Completion date: June 10, 1994

7. Start implementing the Plan.

NcompasS NEWS

We are now using multiLIS for all our cataloguing. Both the labels and cards seem to be printing nicely so we have cut our on-line ties with ISM (Utlas).

Procedures for adding holdings to existing records are being developed and
training and documentation on this process will be given at the Automation
Working Group Meeting in March.

We will be getting the gap tape (all records not on the last tape) from ISM in the next few weeks and those records should be in the database in March. We also plan to load the Dartmouth and Halifax City tapes in March and will let you know when they are available for searching.

RECON PLAN

Donna Bourne-Tyson and Betsy Armstrong are working on a plan to ensure
that the RECON is carried out in a logical and workable manner for all
regions. This plan will be discussed at the

Automation Working Group
Meeting and a calendar of the process and dates for each step will be
developed. We would like to make sure that each region has as much
RECON done as possible by the time they are ready to automate.

NSTN CHANGES AND TRAINING

The complete configuration of NSTN/e-mail software has been installed at NSPL and we will be the first ones to try out the training. Stay tuned for the training schedule to be released any day now. We would like to have this all completed by the end of March as well.

NSTN has told us that public access to NSTN and Internet from the public
library is included in our service contract. So as soon as any of you can make a terminal available in a branch, the public can have all the access that is currently available to staff.

NSTN has approached Eastern Counties Regional Library about installing a
POP (Point of Presence) in the library in Mulgrave. This arrangement would provide local access to all NSTN's subscribers in the Port Hawkesbury calling area as well as reduce our costs for Eastern's connection. More on this as it develops; there is also a strong possiblilty that PARL will have a POP installed soon.

Many of you have been asking about home access to NSTN which we all
thought we would get as part of our service contract. However, this particular access was not included in the original contract. NSPL has written to NSTN asking for a proposal to provide home access for some Provincial Library and Regional Library staff. More details to follow when we get a reply.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM NEWS

The posters have gone to the printers, and will soon be ready. We were able to negotiate the same price as last year, thanks in part to Barry Donovan's economical use of colour separations. The "Whale of a Tale" clip art is still in production, but we hope it will be ready to ship out with the posters. Martha Langille of NSHHC will be collecting

programming ideas from the regions again this year, and ordering the buttons. She will send out a message when she is ready to take orders. If anyone is interested in ordering stickers this year, they should contact Martha as well. If you have any questions about your poster order, please contact Arlene Watts (awatts) or Donna Bourne-Tyson (dbourne).

MORE ON THE CANADA/NS BUSINESS SERVICE CENTRE

Discussions are still underway on how libraries and the Centre can
complement each other's services, but in the meantime your reference staff
might be interetested in what the Centre has to offer.

The Centre has trained information officers who can provide information on the full range of business related government services which are available from both federal and provincial departments and agencies. Some of the specialized information sources which the Centre can provide access to are the dISTCovery database (licensing), the Government Services' Open Bidding Service database and Industry Profiles for a wide variety of business sectors. The telephone number for the Centre is 1-800-668-1010 or 426-8604 for the Metro area. Hours are 9:00 - 5:00, Monday to Friday.

MBS NEWS

National Library's Multilingual Biblioservice will be significantly affected by the changes due to budget cuts. A meeting has been called for March 15 to discuss National Library's tentative plans and to seek advice and input from the deposit centres, provincial librarians, and the Canadian Association of Large Urban Public Libraries. Diane MacQuarrie, HCRL, has been invited to discuss and refine the proposed model for MBS services, for implementation in April 1995. Thanks to everyone who responded to the request for input on MBS services some time ago; this information will be useful at the meeting on March 15.

USER SERVICES TIDBITS

Andrea John attended the Winter Meeting of the Canadian Library Association in Thunder Bay,

Ontario. In addition to Executive Council meetings, she attended a one-day professional development workshop on freenet, new technology, and distance education. CLA has purchased copies of a newly-released PSA video on the library and intellectual freedom which will be distributed to library organizations to lend to their members. The PSA was produced by Thunder Bay Public Library following challenges to the library's decision to buy Madonna's "Sex". Don't forget that the CLA conference will be in Halifax in 1996!

Carol Morris was on vacation this week but reference staff made every effort to ensure that questions were answered as quickly as usual. We will all be glad to have Carol back though!

Did you know that the CNIB Library for the Blind is now the sole distributor for Blackstone Audio Books Inc. in Canada? These are recordings which have no restrictions on who can use them. The 600 titles include classic literature, poetry, biographies, and children's books, and are available for sale to individuals. Libraries have been interested in unrestricted books in order to provide access to both print-handicapped and sighted users, and Blackstone titles will help fill that gap.

SURF'S UP!

If you have done a bit of "surfing" on the Internet you may have noticed that there are several guides available to assist new users. Sue Dirani has downloaded "The Big Dummy's Guide to the Internet", and has stored it on diskette (please note that no copyright laws have been broken - the authors of these guides encourage this!). If any of you would like a copy (in WP5.2 format) just send Sue a 3.5" diskette and she would be happy to copy it for you. 162 pages in length, it contains valuable and easy to understand information about telnet, ftp, using Veronica, gophers, etc. If you prefer a hardcopy, NSPL has a catalogued copy available for loan.

Another valuable source of information on the Net is resident on the NSTN gopher. "Gopher-jewels" can be found by clicking on "Internet Resources" at the main NSTN Gopher screen. This little goldmine can lead you to other gophers all over the world according to subject area. If you haven't

looked at it yet, give it a try!

Z39.50 - WHAT IS IT?

You may have heard of it over the last few years but it is still a mystery to a lot of people. The Z39.50 standard allows disparate systems to communicate with each other despite different command languages. With Z39.50, library staff don't need to contend with multiple command languages to retrieve information from a variety of sources. A query entered in the user's interface of choice is translated into Z39.50 packets and then forwarded to the serving system. The serving system, which must also understand Z39.50, interprets and acts on the query then sends a response which is translated back into the user's interface. When the Z39.50 standard is fully developed, it will allow a searcher to see the holdings of Dartmouth Regional Library and Halifax City Regional Library, which are on Dynix Systems, and the NcompasS holdings, displayed on one screen, as one virtual database. Until then, the holdings will display on one screen as three separate banks of records.

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That's it for this issue. Stay tuned . . . .

If you have any questions or comments about the activities mentioned, please contact the people involved.

We encourage readers to comment on items found in THE DISSEMINATOR and/or make suggestions about content. These comments should be directed to Sue Dirani or Donna Bourne-Tyson.

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